

[Rao Bahadur A. Rengaswamy Aiyar.]

26. *Uplift of Backward Communities.*—It has been decided to make arrangements for carrying on steady, systematic and intensive work for the amelioration and uplift of the Backward Communities in the State. The work has been entrusted to a Special Officer styled the Protector of Backward Communities. The work will be carried on in three centres, one each in the North, Central and South Travancore selected with due regard to the distribution of the population of the Backward Communities, their economic condition and the urgency of their needs. House sites for 50 families in each of the centres will be provided by the acquisition of suitable lands (if suitable Government lands are not available) wherein pathways, wells and burial grounds will also be provided. For putting up houses etc., money will be advanced after taking agreements from the people concerned with due provision for sureties. Whenever possible, the assistance of non-official organisations such as the Harijan Sevak Sangh, the Kerala Hindu Mission and the Y. M. C. A. will be invoked for carrying out the work. An experimental rural colony for Backward Communities at Enadimangalam in the Kunnathur Taluk, where an extensive area of arable land is said to be available, will also be established. The normal activities of the Department for the protection of Backward Communities which are in various stages of completion in the several parts of the State will also be continued. A provision of Rs 20,000 for the above purposes has been made in the budget for next year under a new major head “24—Uplift of Backward Communities.” It may be mentioned that this provision is in addition to the usual provision in the budget under Education, Industries, etc., for the benefit of the Backward Communities which amounts to about Rs '63 of a lakh.

27. *Medical.*—In addition to the provision for the appointment of additional staff required in the General Hospital, Trivandrum, for the Radiological and Radium Wards etc., under construction, for the Women and Children's Hospital, the Kottayam District Hospital, the General Medical Stores and additional compounders in some of the heavily worked hospitals, provision has also been made for running an Itinerant dispensary for the treatment of yaws, a dangerous infectious disease prevailing in most of the coastal villages in Central Travancore. It is also proposed to supply the Women and Children's Hospital with additional iron cots and shadowless operation lamp. The existing temporary staff in the General Hospital, the Leper